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to the question so frequently asked by the lay officials as to the value of psychiatric records in state hospitals.

Chicago.

HERMAN M. ADLER.

FEEBLE-MINDEDNESS AS SEEN IN COURT. By *V. V. Anderson*, M. D. Mental Hygiene, April, 1917. Pp. 260-65.

The feeble-minded formed a nucleus of the recidivists. Examination shows that 25-40% of the group are feeble-minded. Of a group of 1,000 troublesome offenders, Anderson found 36% feeble-minded. This was a selected group, hence the proportion is quite high. Not more than 10% of all criminals are feeble-minded, yet this 10% is the very backbone of recidivism. An intensive study of a group of 100 feeble-minded individuals taken without selection from court files gives the following data: All showed sufficient deviation in childhood to have made their detection possible; 73% did not get beyond the fifth grade in school; 75% were not self-supporting after leaving school. They were equally incapable of conforming to the standards of conduct of their communities, as shown by the fact that the average number of arrests apiece was 18.25. Both probation and penal treatment were tried by the court. The group was placed on probation 432 times, 220 times surrendered, and 118 inside probations. They were given 735 penal sentences, of 106 years total, and 250 indeterminate sentences. An adequate explanation of all this maladjustment is found in the fact that 75% were below the mental level of ten-year-old children. There has been untold economic waste in not recognizing in early childhood the feeble-mindedness of these individuals, who should have been protected from their own weakness and who would have been made happy and useful in a limited environment created for their special needs. The community has acted unintelligently in failing to interpret correctly the condition of these weaker members.

Evanston, Ill.

ELIZABETH PETTY SHAW.